

PRESTON UNION.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
1895.

PRESTON

PRINTED BY E. AMBLER, 186, LANCASTER ROAD.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Preston.*

GENTLEMEN,

In placing before you for the year 1895 a statement as your Medical Officer of Health concerning the Public Health and Sanitary condition of the Area under the charge of this Council, it affords me much pleasure, as a preliminary observation, to remark that my Report must be of a most favourable nature. Certainly our death rate has slightly advanced, but this increase is in no way caused by the ravages of preventable disease ; but rather by the excessive mortality amongst persons of advanced years.

Much care and attention has been bestowed on the all important subject of Water Supply and Sewerage Schemes in several portions of this Rural District. The formation of "combined areas" for Hospital purposes, both for the separate treatment of Small Pox and other infectious diseases, are now arranged.

On these and other points I will have to dilate in the body of this Report, and I sincerely trust that the few suggestions which may fall from me in the interest of the Public Health may have the ear of the Council.

**Some Remarks respecting Epidemic Invasions
during 1895.**

Although the outbreaks of infectious diseases and the number of people who suffered from these ailments compare unfavourably with the preceding year, yet the Zymotic death rate has only increased to a very slight extent, in fact nothing to speak of ; distinctly proving the mild form of these maladies prevailing.

During the months of January and February numerous incursions of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever manifested an appearance in the Townships of Howick, Penwortham, Longton, Hutton, Farington, Broughton, Grim-sargh, Barton, and Goosnargh. In not one of these instances

did these disorders exhibit a tendency to spread. This array of Townships looks formidable, but it really only means about one case to each locality. In March Scarlet Fever appeared in Whittingham, and Measles assumed an epidemic form at Grimsargh, Hutton, and Howick. I deemed it necessary to close Grimsargh School for a month on the 11th March, and I adopted a like course in the case of Howick School on the 28th of the same month. Measles is regarded as a trivial malady, yet it habitually kills more persons than either Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever or Diphtheria; and in some years it sweeps off pretty nearly as many as all these three diseases put together. It is one of the few Zymotic maladies which have shown no diminution of late years, and on which Sanitary improvements seem to have little or no effect. In the houses of the poor it works ravages, for, as a rule, good nursing, warmth, and appropriate food are required to rob it of its terrors. These are the essentials one finds conspicuous by their absence in the poor man's home, and it is pitiable to think that hundreds of little children die annually for the want of these comforts.

Whooping Cough.

Some children were suffering from Whooping Cough in the above named Townships, and at the same time Penwortham also had a sharp visitation from this disorder in January and February. Not being Scheduled under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act I had not the means of estimating the number of sufferers. I have no doubt the fatal results arising therefrom were due to the terribly severe weather experienced during the first two months of the year. From the opening of 1895 until the beginning of March the temperature was persistently below the average, shewing for the whole kingdom the very large deficiency of over 7 degrees. Goosnargh School was closed on the 23rd March owing to cases of Scarlet Fever appearing in Whittingham and Goosnargh. I am a strong believer in abolishing School attendance on the first indication of an infectious disease assuming epidemic tendencies, and I have never failed to notice with much satisfaction that the adoption of this course has been most successful in stamping out epidemic incursions. The remaining months of the year were uneventful, occasional cases of Scarlet fever springing up in localities widely separated, and divided by lengthy periods of time.

Diphtheria.

All the cases of Diphtheria under notice took place in the townships south of the Ribble, in fact all were located in three

or four townships, and I regard it as fortunate that under fairly good isolation, no disposition to become epidemic was manifested. Diphtheria is a terribly insidious complaint. Many affections of the throat which are really of a Diphtheretic character are not recognised as being so, because they pass off quickly without assuming a severe form. Up to the present very little is known of its nature, and of the causes which contribute to its spread. The only medium by which it is undoubtedly conveyed, is milk. No instance of its transmission by drinking water is on record, and even the defects of drainage and the sanitary condition of dwellings appear to have little influence on it, except in so far as they tend generally to lower health and weaken the resistance against disease. Overcrowded rooms, however, and especially overcrowded Schools, are evidently favourable to its diffusion, and for some unexplained reason it attaches itself to particular localities. Whether the new treatment by Anti-toxin can be made as universally efficacious as was at first supposed, is a point as to which there is some doubt. I am of opinion that all Sanitary Authorities should keep and supply to all Medical Men attending cases of Diphtheria in their respective districts Anti-toxin fluid or Serum with syringes for injecting this Serum.

Influenza.

Influenza was at different times fairly in evidence. This dreaded and mysterious malady never seems to leave us for long. We have had on numerous occasions practical experience how Influenza Epidemics take possession of the Country. Invariably the attack proceeds in the most leisurely manner at first; for weeks it plays with its future victims until suspicion is allayed, and we are beginning to think that a false alarm has been raised, when it suddenly develops astonishing violence, and its onslaught become irresistible. It is certainly to be hoped that we are not going to witness a repetition of one of the fatal epidemics of this disorder: at the same time we ought not to allow ourselves to be deceived by the easy going march of this ruthless and untrustworthy enemy. Although the demises due to Influenza occurring in this "Rural Area" were by no means numerous, yet it is very difficult to estimate the deaths occurring under this head, but directly caused by secondary diseases induced by Influenza as a primary cause.

Rabies.

In March last I presented a report dealing with some of the recent outbreaks of Rabies. I tried to point out the unscientific, disconnected, and useless methods of applying the

Muzzling Order by Local Authorities, whether these be Municipal Corporations or Magistrates. Rabies as a disease, and one of the most frightful known, is increasing rapidly. The number of outbursts notified to the Board of Agriculture in 1895 amounted to no less than 716, as compared with 243 in 1894, with 93 in 1893, and 40 in 1892. In other words there were nearly twenty times as many cases reported last year as there were three years previously. This is a startling statement, and should be sufficient to induce a wide spread desire to finally and effectually stamp out Rabies. This can be done, as is the case in many of our Colonies, where Hydrophobia is an unknown disease. The serious defect in this Country is, there exists no uniformity of action in enforcing the "Muzzling Order." A County Council might be prepared to put this Order in force in the County, but the Boroughs would probably say, "No Rabies exist in our jurisdictions, and we shall have no muzzling." This procedure is utterly useless, and most irksome to all lovers of Dogs. Only one line can be adopted, viz.:—enforce universal muzzling from 6 to 12 months; a total prohibition of the importation of dogs from France and other countries where Rabies constantly prevails, except with a three to six months' quarantine; and the adoption of an effective cage muzzle to be imperative. I am positive, and the fact is well known, that the muzzles now used are in thousands of instances nothing more than shams and delusions. The power to enforce the "Muzzling Order" should at once be withdrawn from the Authorities now holding it, and have so signally failed to do their duty by this "Order," and placed with the Board of Agriculture.

Small Pox

I have to record that not a single case of Small Pox took place throughout the year. This is most satisfactory. The long looked for report of the Royal Commission on Vaccination is to be ready for presentation to Parliament early this Session. This news is somewhat consoling; but there is not the smallest doubt that no matter what course this report may advocate with respect to Vaccination, one thing is certain—much opposition has been generated by the great tardiness displayed by "The Commission" which has now been holding sittings during the past six years. My view is that there is no halfway house in carrying out the working of the Vaccination Acts. Strict rules should be formulated, which should be binding, not only on Public Vaccinators but on all Medical Men performing Vaccination; and Re-Vaccination should be made compulsory. Amongst the children who are each year certified as having been efficiently and successfully vaccinated

there is a very important proportion who are only protected in the most modified form against Small Pox through the limited and inefficient mode the operation has been performed in ; and these partially protected children in the presence of a severe epidemic of Small Pox would all be more or less susceptible to an attack of this loathsome disease, with the result that vaccination is discredited, and the Anti-Vaccinator is furnished with sufficient grounds to enlarge and fully develop a plausible diatribe against vaccination. I sincerely trust that the recommendations of the Royal Commission may be couched in no uncertain strain.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

The operation of the Infectious Diseases Act is of the greatest use to me. In two or three instances Medical Men failed to report the the cases under their care ; but I found on reminding them of their default, that there was not the slightest intention of evading the responsibility of the Act. The following table gives most of the outbreaks of Infectious Diseases during the year :—

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	No. of Houses Infected	No. of Cases.
1	Jan. ...	Haighton ...	PuerperalFever	1	1
2	„ ...	Howick ...	Scarlet Fever	1	1
3	„ ...	Broughton ...	PuerperalFever	1	1
4	„ ...	Penwortham ...	Typhoid Fever	1	1
5	„ ...	Penwortham ...	Diphtheria ...	1	1
6	„ ...	Longton ...	Diphtheria ...	1	1
7	„ ...	Hutton ...	Scarlet Fever	1	1
8	Feb. ...	Penwortham ...	Scarlet Fever	1	1
9	„ ...	Grimsargh ...	Scarlet Fever	1	1
10	„ ...	Farington ...	PuerperalFever	1	1
11	„ ...	Barton ...	Scarlatina ...	1	1
12	„ ...	Goosnargh ...	Scarlet Fever...	1	1
13	March	Whittingham	Scarlet Fever...	1	1
14	„ ...	Grimsargh ...	Measles ...	16	30
15	„ ...	Whittingham...	Scarlet Fever...	1	1
16	„ ..	Howick ...	Measles ...	5	7
17	April ...	Hutton ...	Measles ...	2	3
18	„ ...	Howick ...	Measles	2	4
19	„ ...	Penwortham ...	Diphtheria ...	1	1
20	May ...	Penwortham ...	Diphtheria ...	1	1
21	„ ...	New Longton	Diphtheria ...	1	1
22	„ ...	Farington ...	Diphtheria ...	1	1
Carried forward ...				43	62

No.	Date.	Locality,	Disease.	No. of Houses Infected	No. of Cases.
			Brought forward	44	62
23	May ...	Woodplumpton	Scarlet Fever...	I	2
24	June ...	Goosnargh ...	Typhoid Fever	I	I
25	July ...	Bartle W'pton	Typhoid Fever	I	I
26	„ ...	Goosnargh ...	Typhoid Fever	I	I
27	„ ...	Whittingham...	Scarlet Fever...	I	I
28	„ ...	Farington ...	Typhoid Fever	I	I
29	„ ...	Catforth W'pton	Typhoid Fever	I	I
30	„ ...	Much Hoole ...	Diphtheria ...	I	I
31	Aug. ...	Whittingham ...	Typhoid Fever	I	I
32	Sept. ...	Farington ...	Scarlet Fever...	I	I
33	Nov. ...	Whittingham ...	Scarlet Fever...	I	3
34	Dec. ...	Farington ...	Puerperal Fever	I	I
35	„ ...	Farington ...	Typhoid Fever	I	I
36	„ ...	Lea ...	Typhoid Fever	I	I
				56	78

Infectious Hospitals.

In my report for last year I alluded at some length to the establishment of a Joint Hospital for infectious diseases by this Authority, the Fulwood Urban District Council, and the Longridge Urban District Council. I received instructions to prepare a report on the subject of Hospital accommodation, supplied by the several Municipal and other Authorities in the County of Lancaster. This I did, and I presented my statement on the 11th March, 1895, to this Council. I pointed out that I had despatched 38 Circulars asking for information, and I received 27 replies. Out of these only a very few gave me full answers to the questions contained in my letter, as to cost of site, building, furnishing, and number of beds in proportion to the population. Several meetings were held by the representatives of the before named Authorities, and it was decided to ask the County Council to form a Joint Hospital District. Notice was received in November that the County Council had approved this, and the 30th of April next, was the date fixed for the first meeting of the Joint Committee to take place.

Small Pox Hospitals.

Dr. Sergeant, the County Medical Officer of Health, has for some time past been very anxious that a complete chain of Small-pox Isolation Hospitals should be established

throughout the county. With this object in view, so far as local areas were concerned, a conference was summoned to meet at the County Offices on the 6th May. This meeting was duly held, and representatives from the Fylde, Garstang, Preston (Rural), Lytham, St. Annes-on-the Sea, Kirkham, Fleetwood, Fulwood, and Walton-le-Dale Council, attended. Dr. Sergeant gave a most interesting resumé of the construction, requirements and probable cost of two Small-pox Hospitals suitable to the wants of the above named Authorities. It was finally settled and carried that there was much necessity for the construction of Small-pox Hospitals. This meeting was adjourned for 5 weeks to enable the matter to be submitted to the several Sanitary Authorities. The adjourned meeting took place on the 10th June, and after much discussion it was resolved to petition the County Council to hold the necessary inquiry under the "Isolation Hospitals Act, 1878." The petition having been acceded to, the inquiry was called for and held on the 10th July, with the result that Walton-le-Dale, having hospital accommodation of its own was permitted to withdraw, and the following Councils form "The Fylde, Preston, and Garstang Joint Hospital District," viz.—The Fylde Rural District Council, the Preston Rural District Council, the Garstang Rural District Council, the Fleetwood Urban District Council, the Fulwood Urban District Council, the Kirkham Urban District Council, the Longridge Urban District Council, the Lytham Urban District Council, and the St. Annes-on-the-Sea Urban District Council.

It is further notified by the County Council that the first Meeting of the Joint Committee will take place at the County Offices on the 6th May, 1896. So here ends the first stage of an important work. I may say that so far as the isolation of Small Pox cases at present goes, I have not at my disposal the means of isolating a single case. I sincerely trust the Committee will expedite matters as much as possible so as to place Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases within the reach of all the contracting Councils.

Sanitary Condition of the District during 1895.

The importance of the works of Sewerage and Sewage disposal and Water supply, undertaken by this Council cannot be over estimated. Some of these schemes are finished or approaching completion, others advance rather slowly.

Sewerage Scheme for Grimsargh.

The Grimsargh Sewerage Works have been so far completed as to have dealt with the Sewage for a short time, but

owing to an accident these were temporarily thrown out of operation. The County Council Inspector, Mr. Naylor, reported the effluent to be "fairly satisfactory." The Council have decided to buy the site of the works together with two cottages and gardens adjoining ; this will enable a caretaker to reside on the works, and provide storage room for the "Ferozone" required in treating the Sewage.

Ribchester Sewerage.

Col. Halstead, one of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board held an enquiry at Ribchester Schools on 4th January, 1895, to hear evidence on the subject of a Sewerage Scheme for Ribchester. In my report for 1894, I said that I was of opinion from what the Inspector saw he would be impressed with the necessity of carrying out these works at once, as Ribchester (or at least many parts of it) has been for years nothing more or less than a village saturated with Sewage. The borrowing powers having been sanctioned, Mr. J. J. Myres, C.E., was appointed Engineer, and at once proceeded with these works. As rapid progress as weather and floods would allow has been made. All the sewers are laid, the man holes built, and the settling tanks and filter beds are now in a fair state bordering on completion. It is hoped that the early portion of 1896 will see these works finished. The Precipitation tank will be one of "Candy's Patent" continuous flow tanks, and the filter beds will be those known as "The International Process" filters. The normal flow of Sewage from the population of 750 is calculated to be 7,500 gallons per day, and the works are amply large enough for future extensions of the village.

Sewerage Scheme for Tardy Gate and other parts of the Township of Farington.

The terms of Agreement between this Board and the Walton-le-Dale Council have not been settled or completed, hence the laying of the sewer to drain Tardy Gate has not yet been entered on. There is much necessity for a system of Sewerage here, as the existing drains are faulty, and I should add, insufficient. The putting down of a Sewer to accommodate East View, West View, and the adjacent houses has been determined on, and will no doubt be of marked benefit to this neighbourhood ; but it must not be forgotten that the Sewering and treatment of the Sewage from Farington Village cannot be much longer delayed. The effluent from the temporary cinder filter put down here by Messrs. Bashall & Co., has been called in question more than once. It is now a point for con-

sideration whether it is wise to spend money in promoting small schemes when possibly one of a more extended nature would serve all the township. I am decidedly in favour of the latter method of procedure.

Water supply to Longton and the Townships South of the Ribble.

The old saying "that all things come to those who wait" has been verified locally by a supply of water being given to Longton and the Townships south of the Ribble. On the 16th July a commencement was made of laying the pipes at Penwortham Bridge, and was continuously proceeded with until the length from Penwortham Bridge, to the "Rose and Crown Inn" in Much Hoole, through the townships of Penwortham, Howick, Hutton, Longton and Little Hoole, a distance of six and a half miles has now been completed; another length of mains through Middleforth Green, round Penwortham Hall and Cop Lane, has also been finished. The Pipes from Preston to the "Golden Ball" Inn at Longton are 9 inch, and the rest referred to are 6 inches in diameter. Two "Kennedy's" Meters have been fixed in a chamber on the north side of Penwortham Bridge. The formal ceremony of turning on the water at these meters took place on the 18th December. Since then many houses in and about Penwortham Bridge have received supplies of water. The Contractor is proceeding as quickly as possible with the services and connections, so that all householders may be supplied with water without delay. Service mains have to be put down along Pope Lane, Chapel Lane, Marsh Lane, Skip Lane, Hutton Hall Lane, Howick Lane, Crookings Lane, and Tardy Gate Lane, and additional services to be provided, so that some time must elapse before these works are entirely completed. Now that Longton, which is a pleasantly situated village, has a good water supply, there is nothing except the want of a Sewerage system to prevent its growing into an important residential suburb of Preston.

Water Supply to the Blackburn Corporation Farms at Samlesbury.

Complaint having been made respecting the Water Supply to the Blackburn Corporation Farms at Samlesbury, I presented a report on the 26th March stating that I had inspected these farms with a view to ascertaining the nature and source of the water supplies. Rain water was the source, and the methods of storing I at once condemned. Some tubs placed at the backs of the dwelling-houses holding

water for 10 days consumption, and tanks sunk in yards, were the means of storing the water. The water in the tubs soon decomposed in hot weather, (one sample I took being alive with water fleas), and the yard tanks being so badly constructed as to render the water totally unfit for human use. I was directed to have all their waters analysed. This I did on the 16th July, and the results showed that all the tank waters were bad; one lot being nothing more or less than diluted sewage. I advised that a supply should be obtained for these farms from the Thirlmere Conduit of the Manchester Corporation, or that the tanks be re-constructed and made thoroughly safe for water storage. At the same time I distinctly stated that I was no advocate of stored rain water as a domestic supply. After considerable correspondence the Blackburn Corporation have given an assurance to give this matter every consideration and attention.

Water Supply by the Fulwood Urban District Council to several Townships in the Preston Rural District.

Although the increase in the number of houses taking water from the Fulwood mains in this Council's District is not great, yet each year I have to chronicle an augmentation. I here give a table which will explain :—

Townships.	Number of Houses Supplied.		
	1893.	1894.	1895.
Grimsargh	38	41	41
Whittingham	36	36	37
Broughton	82	84	86
Haighton	17	17	17
Goosnargh	19	21	21
Ingol	4	4	4
Totals	196	203	206

Nuisances.

Your Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Thos. Ashcroft, having handed me his report setting forth the work executed by him in dealing with nuisances of various kinds, I find that the year 1895 has proved a busy one, the nuisances under notice being considerably more numerous than in the preceding year. My experience is that each year people are more and more disposed to use the services of both the Medical Officer

of Health and Inspector of Nuisances far more frequently, and in some instances the cause of complaint is extremely trivial. Several instances came before me where a slight disagreement with a friend or neighbour has been the signal to call in the Medical Officer of Health to make complaint against a nuisance or a supposed one. Generally, when attention has been called to insanitary conditions, there has been ample cause to seek relief; and if people would have a little more courage, and, when calling to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health some matter requiring supervision, desist from writing anonymous letters and sign their own name it would be much more satisfactory to me. I am always disposed to ignore anonymous communications, and I scarcely think blame could attach to me for adopting such a course. A tabulated form is here introduced giving the numbers and descriptions of nuisances treated by your Inspector. I may add that no case arose requiring legal proceedings.

Description of Nuisances.						No. dealt with.
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	...	46
„ Cesspools, Tanks, and Privies	...	...	...	...	...	31
„ Roofs and Spouts	...	...	...	...	...	17
Dilapidated Houses	...	...	...	...	...	8
Foul Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	31
General Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	26
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	32
Offensive Ditches	...	...	...	...	...	22
Polluted Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	7
Notices served to abate Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	21
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	341

Bye-Laws.

Through the pressure of other business the consideration of the alterations demanded by the Local Government Board have not yet been attended to, although towards the close of the year this subject came before the Council, and it has been determined to take this matter up at once, and to meet, if possible, all changes suggested. I am correct, I think, in saying how fully recognised it now is to have the powers conferred by these laws in force in a district such as this.

Enquiries made by the Medical Officer of Health respecting conditions injurious to health existing in this District.

On frequent occasions I have during the year visited the several divisions of this Rural District. I do not for an instant say that many more improvements cannot be effected ; but this I can assert that, as a Rural area, our sanitary condition is very fairly satisfactory, and with the tendency manifested by this Council in pushing forward sanitary reforms much good must result. On the water supply to farms and farm buildings I had often to give advice. All nuisances of a serious nature come under my notice. One case of smoke nuisance was reported to me and satisfactorily dealt with. I have endeavoured to treat fairly and effectively each case, and I must say I always have found property owners and others anxious to meet my requirements.

The Preston Corporation have not altered the method of treating the sewage on Freckleton Farm. Many times during the year the smell arising from this farm was bad, thoroughly permeating the Townships south of the Ribble. Yet never since September and October, 1894, has the stench been anything like what it was in the months named. I hold that no Corporation has the right to inconvenience and endanger the public health of a neighbouring Authority by a serious default. However, this matter is to come before one of the Higher Courts, so at its present stage it needs no further remark from me.

Factory Act, 1891.

The responsibility placed on me as a Medical Officer of Health by the Factory and Workshops Act, 1891, I have tried to observe. Most of the Mills requiring fire escapes are provided with such ; in other respects these factories are in accordance with the Act.

Cow-Sheds, Dairies, and Milkshops Order.

Up to the present, although the Council has in force "The Cow-Sheds, Dairies, and Milkshops Order," no regulations have been adopted, and it is quite impossible to carry out this Order without the help of such Rules. I strongly advise that a Committee be at once appointed to formulate such Regulations. A number of farms have been inspected, and, as a rule, the buildings are clean, sufficiently large, well lighted, and provided with a suitable water supply. The destructive role played by contaminated milk in producing epidemics of certain Zymotic diseases is now well known, and

seeing that this is so, the greater is the onus resting on the shoulders of any Authority that does not take steps to ward off such a serious contingency.

Canal Boats Act.

The following constitutes Mr. Ashcroft's report as to the inspection and condition of all Canal Boats whilst within the jurisdiction of this Council:—"During the year I have inspected 26 Boats and have made 35 visits to the Canal for the purpose of inspection. The Boats visited by me were all registered in the Borough of Preston, and simply passed through the Council's district. The certificates of the Boats corresponded with the number of occupants living thereon. I have no complaint to make with regard to the sanitary condition; I have found these Boats all in good order."

Some information relative to Deaths and Births taking place in 1895.

In calculating the Death and Birth rates I use the Census population of 1891, as I believe if I estimated the population up to the middle of June in each year, it would be found at the next Census that there was a much larger population in figures than really existed in the district, and I would thus be recording an unduly low death rate each time I issued my Annual Report. I find that in Rural areas the population does not increase but rather diminishes, or stands still.

There were registered during the year 1895 a total of 239 deaths, of these 140 were males, and 99 were females. 44 demises occurred under one year of age; 18 between the ages of 5 to 15; 11 deaths from 15 to 25; 71 between 25 and 65; and 82 are recorded as having taken place over 65 years. Such is the age distribution of the mortality. These figures present us with a death rate for the year of 15.72 per 1000 of the population. This rate is slightly in advance of that recorded for 1894, the difference being 1.58 per 1000. The fatalities amongst infants under one year of age amount to 44, giving an infantile mortality rate of 111.67 per 1000 registered births. The same rate in 1894 stood at 110.25. I consider the position occupied with respect to these death rates to be highly satisfactory. The augmentation of the death rate is in no way due to the ravages of Zymotic ailments, and in one Township alone the fatalities amongst aged people accounts for nearly the whole of the increase. Year after year the average death rate has been steadily decreasing, for the past six years it amounts to 16.88. The table here given shows the deaths placed under the various age limits for the past 6 years.

YEARS.	Under 1 year	1 Year and under 5 years.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards	Totals.	Death rate per 1000 of the Populat'n	Mean death rate for past six years
1890	50	18	10	9	67	89	243	16.88	16.88
1891	61	19	7	21	74	100	282	18.55	
1892	59	30	10	17	71	94	281	18.47	
1893	53	26	11	12	87	78	267	17.56	
1894	42	16	6	9	76	66	215	14.14	
1895	44	18	13	11	71	82	239	15.72	

Deaths due to Zymotic Diseases.

This District is always most fortunate in not having to record a heavy death roll from infectious diseases, and the rate seldom rises over 1.50 per 1,000 of the population. This year and last it has sunk under 1.00. The outbreaks of Zymotic maladies were considerably more numerous than in the preceeding year, yet fewer instances are recorded where these incursions assumed an epidemic character. I am positive the action I took in closing some schools had the salutary effect of staying the march of some serious outbursts of infectious disorders. Thirteen deaths are due to Measles, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Diarrhœa, and Whooping Cough; giving a Zymotic death rate of 85 per 1,000 of the population, a very low record indeed, and similar to that of last year which was 78. I have here given a table bearing on this subject for the past 6 years.

Years.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Doubtful Fever.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Whooping Cough.	Totals.	Death rate per 1,000 of the Population.	Mean rate for past 6 years.
1890	2	...	3	1	...	4	3	13	.90	1.12
1891	7	3	1	2	...	6	1	20	1.38	
1892	...	5	1	...	2	7	3	18	1.19	
1893	2	2	1	2	...	13	5	25	1.64	
1894	2	2	1	2	...	1	4	12	.78	
1895	2	1	1	1	...	3	5	13	.85	

For the past ten years I have been in the habit of furnish-
a quarterly return of the deaths. During 1895 the mortality
is as follows:—

First quarter	-	-	80
Second quarter	-		57
Third quarter	-	-	48
Fourth quarter	-		54
			<hr/>
Total	-	-	239
			<hr/>

No information is given on “Table A” after the age limit
of 65 is reached. All the deaths over this age being tabulated
together, I divide the periods a little further and here insert a
table which may prove interesting. It will be noticed that no
person attained the age of 90 years. The result of this table
relative to 1895 is as follows:—Between 65 and 70 years 14
died; from 70 to 80, 46; over 80 and under 90, 22; and over
90 years, none.

Years.	Deaths over 65 and under 70 years.	Deaths over 70 and under 80 years.	Deaths over 80 and under 90 years	Deaths over 90 years.	Totals.
1886	32	42	20	1	95
1887	24	47	23	2	96
1888	39	41	18	7	105
1889	33	43	11	1	88
1890	29	42	17	1	89
1891	34	32	32	2	100
1892	36	46	15	4	101
1893	27	36	13	2	78
1894	13	32	18	3	66
1895	14	46	22	...	82

A total of 132 demises are ascribed on “Form A” as
having occurred “from all other causes.” I have tabulated
these deaths as copied from the “Certificates of Death.”

Name of Disease.	No. of Deaths,	Name of Disease.	No. of Deaths.
Premature Birth ...	7	Ottorrhœa	1
Convulsions	6	Cancer of Bladder ...	1
Accidentally Drowned	3	Puerperal Eclampsia	1
Suicide by Drowning	2	Chronic Alcoholism	1
Carcinoma Uteri ...	2	Chronic Rheumatism	1
Influenza	3	Acute Cattarrh	1
Carcinoma Jecoris ...	3	Meningitis	3
Marasmus	2	Suicide by Hanging	1
Diabetes	1	Epilepsy	1
Intussusception	1	Cancer of Kidney ...	1
Pelvic Cellulitis	1	Typhlitis	1
Gastric Catarrh	5	Disease of Spine	1
Strangulated Hernia	3	Cerebro Spinal Men-	
Senile Decay	19	ingitis	1
Apoplexy	14	Stomatitis.....	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	Syncope	1
Chronic Myelitis.....	2	Ophthalmia	1
Tubercular Peritonitis	1	Parturition	1
Cardiac Failure	3	Chronic Tubercular	
General Debility.....	1	Ulceration of In-	
Natural Causes	2	testines	1
Ulceration of Stomach	1	Cancer of Stomach...	1
Debility from Birth	3	Cardiac Dropsy	2
Teething	2	Exposure whilst	
Hepatitis	2	Drunk.....	1
Tabes Mesenterica ...	1	Pernicious Anæmia	1
Bulbar Paralysis.....	1	Gastric Ulcer	1
Asthma	1	Tubercular Peritonitis	1
Empyema.....	1	Cerebral Tumour ...	1
Bright's Disease	3		
Cerebral Softening ...	4		
Cancer of Neck	2		
Fatty Degeneration			
of Heart	1	TOTAL	132

With respect to Births, Deaths and demises due to Infectious Diseases I think it wise to contrast our position with like areas in both England and Wales, and also with Rural Districts in the Administrative County of Lancaster. To enable me to do this I cull some figures from the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health- From these figures I construct the following table :—

	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population.	Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population.	Rural Zymotic Rate.	Rate of Infantile Mortality as per deaths under one year to 1,000 registered deaths
England and Wales	29.6	15.6	1.76	137
Rural Districts of the County.	27.70	14.87	1.04	109
Preston Rural District.	25.92	15.72	.87	111
				1894
				1895

I here render a succinct summary of the number and distribution of Zymotic deaths and also those caused by pulmonary lisions.

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever occasioned two deaths; one due to the former, and one to the latter disease. The fatal case of Diphtheria took place in Penwortham, and that of Scarlet Fever in Whittingham.

Measles and Typhoid Fever.

Two fatalities are recorded as having been caused by Measles; one demise being registered in Whittingham, the other in Goosnargh. Typhoid Fever carried off one person in the Township of Woodplumpton.

Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough proved fatal to five children—placed thus, three in Penwortham, and two in Hutton.

Bronchitis Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.

Forty-seven deaths are attributable to the pulmonary diseases Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy, as compared with 33 in the preceding year. On Table 'C.' in the appendix to this report a monthly distribution of these maladies is given, and a glance at Table 'A' will indicate their disposal over the several townships constituting this Sanitary District.

Phthisis.

Phthisis claimed 16 victims, being twelve in excess of the year 1894. Like information will be found on 'Tables A and C' respecting Phthisis as described in foregoing paragraph.

Illegitimate Births and Deaths.

Nine illegitimate Births, and three Deaths have been registered.

Births.

A total of 394 Births are recorded for the year 1895, being 13 over the number given for 1894. Of these 199 are males, and 195 are females, representing a Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population of 25.92. It is very noticeable that the birth rate of this district seldom exceeds the average rate for the rural portions of the County of Lancaster, and it falls still lower when compared with the same for England and Wales. A table will be found introduced here giving a quarterly return of births since 1889 up to the present date—

Years.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Totals.
1889	95	108	108	110	421
1890	123	102	99	103	427
1891	104	103	111	108	426
1892	102	108	104	89	403
1893	92	114	98	89	393
1894	91	92	102	96	381
1895	93	99	112	90	394

This concludes my statement for the year 1895. It affords me much pleasure to submit such a favorable report, indicating on the part of the new District Council a sincere desire to push forward all matters pertaining to the benefit of the Public Health. I must tender my warm thanks for all the consideration and kindly treatment always extended to me by the Members of the Council, and I would here express my gratitude for the increase of Salary granted to me by the unanimous vote of this Council, and without application on my part.

To your Engineer, Mr. Myres, I am much indebted for information concerning Ribchester and Grimsargh Sewerage Schemes, and the Longton Water Supply.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Louth House,

Bamber Bridge, near Preston,

10th February, 1896.

TABLE A.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895 in the Rural District of Preston, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.) (a)				MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
				At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	(i)	Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
																Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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Farington	35	8	4	4	3	10	6	Under 5 upwards</

TABLE B.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Preston Rural District Council's District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities. (a)	Population at all Ages		Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal.	Measles.		Names of Localities. (a)	Population at all ages		Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal.	Measles.
	Census 1891. (b)											Census 1891. (b)								
Farington ...	2154		70	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...		Barton ...	338		6	Under 5 5 upwards	1	...	...	...	...
Longton ...	1333		36	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...		Haighton ...	252		9	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...
Much Hoole ...	567		13	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...		Woodplumpton ...	1179		28	Under 5 5 upwards	3	...	...	2	...
Little Hoole ...	481		11	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...		Whittingham ...	752		31	Under 5 5 upwards	2	...	...	1	...
Hutton ...	374		11	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	1		Ribchester ...	1265		27	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	2
Howick ...	101		4	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	2		Dutton ...	236		7	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	9
Penwortham ...	1671		47	Under 5 5 upwards	...	1	...	...	...		Hothersall ...	175		4	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...
Samlesbury ..	816		25	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...		Grimsargh ...	432		7	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	7
Cuerdale ...	60		1	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...		Elston ...	61		1	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	23
Ashton, Ingol, Lea and Cottam }	702		15	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...		Ribbleton ...	65		2	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh ...	1576		27	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...						
Broughton ...	610		12	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...		Totals ...	15200		394	Under 5 5 upwards	3	1	...	...	10
								1							13	...	5	7	34	

TABLE C.

Mortality in the several Townships now constituting the Preston Rural District Council's District, with Area in Acres and Population, in 1891; together with the Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population and Demises due to Specified Causes during the years 1895, 1894.

TOWNSHIPS.	Area in Acres.	Population, 1891.	DEATHS, 1895.			Totals, 1894.	Death rate per 1000 of the population, 1895.	Death rate per 1000 of the population, 1894.	Deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.		Deaths from Phthisis.		Deaths Typhoid Fever.		Deaths from Diphtheria, Measles, and Scarlet Fever.		Deaths from Diarrhoea and Dysentery.		Deaths taking place under 1 year.		Illegitimate Deaths.	
			Males.	Females	Totals, 1895.				1895	1894	1895	1894	1895	1894	1895	1894	1895	1894	1895	1894	1895	1894
Farington	3190	2154	25	10	35	35	16.24	16.24	5	10	4	3	...	...	...	1	1	...	8	12	...	...
Longton	2997	1333	13	11	24	18	18.00	13.50	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	1	...
Much Hoole	1622	567	7	6	13	7	22.92	12.34	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...
Little Hoole	846	481	4	1	5	5	10.39	10.39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Hutton	1859	374	4	2	6	7	16.04	18.71	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	1	...	...
Howick	495	101	1	1	2	4	19.80	39.60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
Penwortham	2109	1671	19	16	35	25	20.04	14.96	9	1	2	2	...	1	1	...	1	...	4	5	...	...
Samlesbury	3799	816	12	9	21	8	25.73	9.80	3	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	...
Cuerdale	660	60	1	3	4	...	66.66	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Lea, Ashton, Ingol, & Cottam	2884	702	6	3	9	13	12.82	18.51	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	...
Goosnargh	7891	1576	11	7	18	19	11.42	12.05	4	5	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Broughton	2543	610	9	2	11	8	18.03	13.11	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	4	...	...
Barton	2303	338	2	1	3	3	8.87	8.87	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Haighton	1041	252	1	2	3	4	11.90	15.87	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	4699	1179	8	9	17	21	14.41	17.18	6	3	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	4	3	1	...
*Whittingham	2641	752	5	4	9	6	11.96	7.97	2	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
†Ribchester	2093	1265	5	6	11	20	8.69	15.81	3	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1
Dutton	1665	236	2	2	4	7	16.94	2.96	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	963	175	1	1	2	1	11.42	5.72	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	1608	432	4	2	6	2	13.89	4.62	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...
Elston	866	61	...	1	1	...	16.39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ribbleton	289	65	...	...	...	2	...	32.30	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	49063	15200	140	99	239	215	15.72	14.14	47	33	16	10	1	2	4	4	3	1	44	42	3	1

* This area and population does not include the grounds and inmates of Whittingham Asylum.

† Does not include deaths taking place at Ribchester Workhouse.

		1895	1894
Deaths under one year	44		
„ over 1 year and under 5 years	16		
„ over 65 years	82		
Rate per 1,000 Registered Births		111.67	110.23
„ „ of the Population		1.18	1.05
„ „ „ „		5.39	4.34

TABLE D.

Tables shewing Births taking place during 1895 and 1894, with birth rate per 1,000 of the Population; also some information respecting Illegitimate Births.

Townships.	Population 1891.	Births during 1895.			Total Births 1894	Birth rate per 1,000 of the Population 1895.	Birth rate per 1,000 of the Population 1894.	Illegitimate Births.	
		Males	Females	Totals				1895	1894
Farington	2154	40	30	70	61	32.49	28.31	1	2
Longton	1333	15	21	36	40	27.00	30.00	2	2
Much Hoole	567	8	5	13	20	22.92	35.27	1	1
Little Hoole	481	5	6	11	9	22.82	18.71	...	...
Hutton	374	6	5	11	13	29.41	34.75	...	1
Howick	101	3	1	4	5	39.60	49.50	...	...
Penwortham	1671	22	25	47	39	28.12	23.93	...	..
Samlesbury	816	19	6	25	21	30.63	25.73	...	...
Cuerdale	60	...	1	1	1	16.66	16.66	...	...
Lea, Ashton, Ingol, & Cottam...	702	8	7	15	21	21.36	29.91	...	...
Goosnargh	1576	11	16	27	17	17.13	10.78	1	...
Broughton	610	7	5	12	15	19.67	24.59	...	1
Barton	338	3	3	6	9	17.75	26.66	2	...
Haighton	252	4	5	9	1	35.71	3.96	..	...
Woodplumpton	1179	11	17	28	36	23.74	30.53	...	4
Whittingham	752	13	18	31	34	41.22	45.21	1	1
Ribchester	1265	15	12	27	31	21.34	24.50	...	1
Dutton	236	4	3	7	3	29.66	12.71	...	...
Hothersall	175	2	2	4	2	22.85	11.42	...	...
Grimsargh	432	2	5	7	2	16.20	4.62	...	...
Elston	61	...	1	1	...	16.39	...	1	...
Ribbleton	65	1	1	2	1	30.76	15.38	...	...
Totals	15200	199	195	394	381	25.92	25.06	9	13

TABLE E.

Shewing a Monthly Return of Births and Deaths for 1895, so the Mortality from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy during the years 1895 and 1894.

	Births, 1895.			Total Births, 1894	Deaths, 1895.			Total Deaths 1894	Deaths due to Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy, 1895.	Ditto, 1894.	Deaths due to Phthisis, 1895.	Ditto, 1894.
	Males	Females	Totals		Males	Females	Totals					
January ...	15	18	33	33	14	11	25	25	3	6	1	2
February ...	10	17	27	34	13	11	24	27	8	4	2	1
March ...	13	20	33	24	23	8	31	15	8	2	2	1
April ...	21	15	36	25	14	10	24	25	5	8	1	...
May ...	15	15	30	40	7	12	19	13	2	1	3	1
June ...	16	17	33	27	7	7	14	9	2	2	2	1
July ...	21	18	39	35	12	5	17	19	4	1	1	1
August ...	17	19	36	33	8	1	9	12	2	...	1	1
September	22	15	37	34	12	10	22	13	2	1	1	...
October ...	16	18	34	34	8	5	13	13	1	2	1	...
November	18	9	27	31	14	9	23	22	7	5	...	1
December...	15	14	29	31	8	10	18	22	3	1	1	1
Totals ...	199	195	394	381	140	99	239	215	47	33	16	10

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,

Louth House,
Bamber Bridge, near Preston,
10th February, 1896.

L.R.C.P. ED., L.R.C.S.I., D.P.H., L.R.C.P. ED.
Medical Officer of Health

